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THE PRESENT OCCUPATIONAL STATUS OF OKLAHOMA HIGH SCHOOL VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE GRADUATES OVER THE PAST FIVE YEAR PERIOD FROM 1959 TO 1963.

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OVER A 5-YEAR PERIOD, 4,631 VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE GRADUATES FROM 127 OF OKLAHOMA'S 383 HIGH SCHOOLS WITH A PROGRAM IN THIS AREA WERE STUDIED TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY WERE TAKING UP FARMING AS AN OCCUPATION OR WERE ENTERING THE RAPIDLY EXPANDING FIELD OF "AGRIBUSINESS," AND TO WHAT EXTENT THESE GRADUATES WERE USING THIS VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE TRAINING. THE NUMBER OF GRADUATES IN 1959 WAS 893, COMPARED WITH 950 IN 1963. IT WAS FOUND THAT ABOUT 18 PERCENT OF ALL THE GRADUATES WERE FARMING, ALMOST 11 PERCENT WERE IN OFF-FARM AGRICULTURAL OCCUPATIONS, AND ABOUT 12 PERCENT WERE ENROLLED IN AGRICULTURAL OCCUPATIONS. THE HIGHER THE "FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA" DEGREE ACHIEVED, THE GREATER CHANCE OF THE GRADUATE ENTERING FARMING AS WELL AS A POST-HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION, REMAINING A STATE RESIDENT, AND BEING EMPLOYED. THE PRESENT PROGRAM APPEARS TO BE MEETING THE NEEDS OF BOTH THE 29 PERCENT WHO ARE EITHER FARMING OR IN OFF-FARM OCCUPATIONS AND THE 12 PERCENT ENROLLED IN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES, BUT NOT THE LARGER GROUP OF STUDENTS. (EL)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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THE PRESENT OCCUPATIONAL STATUS OF OKLAHOMA HIGH SCHOOL VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE GRADUATES OVER THE PAST FIVE YEAR PERIOD FROM 1959 TO 1963

By Everett D. Edington and Ronald E. Hill

INTRODUCTION

There are several reasons for having conducted such a study as this. Mostly they are involved with the sweeping sociological changes taking place in our country today. It is certainly no secret that America is experiencing a vast reorientation from a rural to an urbanized culture. Most notable is the disappearance of the on-the-farm farmer and the rapidly growing phase of agriculture known as "agribusiness".

This study helps to determine the extent to which graduates from Oklahoma High School Vocational Agriculture Departments are taking up farming as an occupation or are entering the rapidly expanding field of "agribusiness", and to what extent are these graduates using their vocational agricultural training.

This study involves one-third of all Oklahoma high schools having a program in Vocational Agriculture and includes every graduate in vocational agriculture of those high schools over the past five years--classes 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, and 1963.

PROCEDURE

One-third of all Oklahoma high schools with Vocational Agriculture

departments were chosen on a random basis to be used in the study. From the total of 383 schools, 127 were selected. A questionnaire was constructed to obtain the following information: (1) what each graduate is now doing occupationally, (2) to what extent the student participated in F. F. A. work (the F. F. A. degree he attained), and (3) the location of each individual's home, on the farm or in town. The names of each school's graduates over the past five years were obtained from the State Office of Vocational Agriculture and typed on the questionnaire which was then sent to the teachers of Vocational Agriculture. Ninety-two per cent of the questionnaires were returned. This included 4631 high school graduates of Vocational Agriculture.

The students were studied on the basis of four different classifications: Vocational Agriculture District, Year of Graduation, F. F. A. Degree Attained, and Type of Student. This latter classification involved the location of the student's home and whether or not he or his family was farming any land. This category was further broken down into four subdivisions: Country Farmer, Town Farmer, Country Nonfarmer, and Town Nonfarmer.

A "Country Farmer" includes those graduates who had lived on a farm and farmed the land while a "Town Farmer" includes those who lived in town but were actively engaged in farming. A "Country Nonfarmer" graduate was one who had lived in a rural area but did not farm and the "Town Nonfarmer" includes those who lived in town and did not farm.

The five Vocational Agriculture Districts are designated: Northeast, Northwest, Southwest, Southeast, and Central. The five years include those graduating classes of 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, and 1963,

and the three F. F. A. degrees are: Chapter Farmer, Junior Master Farmer, and American Farmer.

COMPARISONS BY YEAR OF GRADUATION

During this five year period a total of 14,078 students was graduated from Oklahoma's Vocational Agriculture Departments of which 4631 or 33.91 per cent are involved in this study. The data in Table I indicates there has been a steady increase in the number of graduates during this five year period.

TABLE I

NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOL VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE GRADUATES BY YEAR

YEAR	NUMBER[1]	GRADUATES IN THIS STUDY BY YEAR	PER CENT OF TOTAL BEING STUDIED
1959	2620	893	34.08
1960	2621	875	33.39
1961	2914	961	32.98
1962	2949	952	32.38
1963	2974	950	31.94
TOTALS	14078	4631	32.95

[1]Figures provided by the Oklahoma State Board for Vocational Education, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

The data in Table II show that the lowest per cent in farming is 16.24 per cent in 1959 and the highest, 20.32 per cent, in 1963. This would tend to indicate that the further out of school a graduate becomes, at least during the first five years, the less he is involved in farming. A possible reason for this is that a larger number of the graduates are entering the Armed Forces from three to five years after graduation (Table IV).

TABLE II

NUMBER OF GRADUATES IN FARMING BY YEAR OF GRADUATION

YEAR	TOTALS	NO	YES	PER CENT YES
1959	893	748	145	16.24
1960	875	711	164	18.74
1961	961	795	166	17.27
1962	952	779	173	18.17
1963	950	757	193	20.32
TOTALS	4631	3790	841	18.16

The data in Table III reveal that approximately the same number of graduates are enrolled in other areas of higher education as are in agriculture. The drop rate seems to be higher among those in the agricultural colleges than the other colleges because of the decreasing smaller percentage enrolled in each year.

The data in Table IV indicate that as the graduates become older more of them leave the state. This is an indication that we need more attractive types of employment here to hold our young people in the state. The larger number in the Armed Forces in the 1959-1960-1961 years is probably due to the fact that young men are out of school a few years before being drafted.

TABLE III

NUMBER OF GRADUATES CONTINUING IN HIGHER EDUCATION BY YEAR OF GRADUATION

YEAR	TOTAL	AG. COLLEGE		OTHER COLLEGE		OTHER SPECIAL EDUCATION		TOTAL PER CENT IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
		YES	PER CENT YES	YES	PER CENT YES	YES	PER CENT YES	
1959	893	74	8.29	96	10.75	19	2.13	21.17
1960	875	80	9.14	101	11.54	30	3.43	24.11
1961	961	105	10.93	124	12.90	42	4.37	28.20
1962	952	146	15.34	156	16.39	63	6.62	38.35
1963	950	164	17.26	142	14.95	55	5.79	38.00
TOTALS	4631	569	12.29	619	13.37	209	4.51	30.17

TABLE IV

NUMBER OF GRADUATES IN MILITARY SERVICE AND STATE RESIDENCE BY YEAR OF GRADUATION

YEAR	IN ARMED FORCES		LOCATION OF RESIDENCE				
	NUMBER	PER CENT	UNKNOWN	OUT OF STATE	PER CENT OUT	IN STATE	PER CENT IN
1959	171	19.15	99	298	33.37	496	55.54
1960	175	20.00	77	267	30.51	531	60.68
1961	170	17.69	97	261	27.16	603	62.75
1962	133	13.97	97	213	22.37	642	67.44
1963	112	11.79	109	187	19.68	654	68.84
TOTALS	761	16.43	479	1226	26.47	2926	63.18

The data in Table V reveal that the longer a student is out of school the more likely he is to be employed in a non-agricultural occupation. There is also a definite decrease in the number of unemployed graduates as they get older. This may due to the fact that employers prefer to hire persons with a little more maturity.

TABLE V

NUMBER OF GRADUATES IN NON-AGRICULTURAL OCCUPATIONS, UNEMPLOYED AND DECEASED BY YEAR

YEAR	NONAG. OCCUPATION		UNEMPLOYED		DECEASED	
	NO.	PER CENT	NO.	PER CENT	NO.	PER CENT
1959	373	41.77	16	1.79	8	.90
1960	284	32.46	15	1.71	4	.46
1961	333	34.65	40	4.16	6	.62
1962	273	28.68	29	3.05	1	.11
1963	260	27.37	47	4.95	3	.32
TOTALS	1523	32.89	147	3.17	22	.48

TABLE VI

NUMBER OF GRADUATES IN OFF-FARM AGRICULTURAL OCCUPATIONS BY YEARS

YEAR	TOTAI	NUMBER	PER CENT
1959	893	119	13.33
1960	874	110	12.59
1961	961	84	8.74
1962	952	113	11.87
1963	950	79	8.33
TOTALS	4631	505	10.90

The number of graduates in off-farm agricultural occupations also shows a slight increase (Table VI) as the graduates grow older. This is probably due to the same factors as the increase in employment in the non-agricultural industries. The smaller percentage in off-farm agricultural occupations indicates that the type of program in the past in vocational agriculture has not been preparing graduates adequately for such occupations.

COMPARISON BY DISTRICT OF STATE

The data in Table VII reveal that the areas of Oklahoma with the largest and most profitable farms are also those that have the largest percentage of graduates returning to the farm. The eastern part of the state has smaller farmers and a larger number of the farm boys fail to find the units economically large enough for them to return. This may have tended to increase the unemployment in this area of the state.

TABLE VII

NUMBER OF GRADUATES IN FARMING BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	TOTALS	NUMBER	PER CENT
Northeast	1285	168	13.07
Northwest	679	174	25.63
Southwest	1188	260	21.89
Southeast	956	128	13.39
Central	523	111	21.22
TOTALS	4631	841	18.16

TABLE VIII

NUMBER OF GRADUATES CONTINUING IN HIGHER EDUCATION BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICTS	TOTAL	IN AG. COLLEGES		IN OTHER COLLEGES		IN SPECIAL EDUCATION		TOTAL PER CENT IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
		NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	
Northeast	1285	147	11.44	137	10.66	52	4.05	26.15
Northwest	679	110	16.20	140	20.62	49	7.22	44.04
Southwest	1188	166	13.97	203	17.09	50	4.21	35.27
Southeast	956	87	9.10	95	9.94	39	4.08	24.12
Central	523	59	11.28	44	8.41	19	3.63	23.32
TOTALS	4631	569	12.29	619	13.37	209	4.51	30.17

Table VIII indicates that slightly over thirty per cent of all the graduates are presently in some type of post high school education. The western and central parts of the state had a higher portion of those enrolled in Colleges of Agriculture while the western areas had a larger number in other types of colleges. The western areas also had a substantially larger number enrolled in higher education.

Table IX indicates that a larger number of graduates from the eastern portion of the state are in the Armed Forces than in the western area. This is also true with the number whose residence is out of Oklahoma. This is probably due to the smaller number of employment opportunities in eastern Oklahoma.

There was some difference as indicated by the data in Table X in those in non-agricultural occupations throughout the state, with the eastern portion of the state somewhat higher. The northeast was slightly higher in unemployment with the northwest next.

A study of occupations by districts quickly shows as indicated by the data in Table XI three districts, Southeast, Central, and Southwest, have slightly more employment in off-farm agricultural occupations than the Northwest and Northeast. The southeast district has the highest rate which is possibly due in part to the state's large concentration of commercially and recreationally valuable forests in that area. Exactly 25 per cent of all those employed agriculturally in that district are engaged in lumbering, forestry, or wildlife management.

TABLE IX

NUMBER OF GRADUATES IN MILITARY SERVICE AND STATE RESIDENCE BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICTS	TOTAL	IN ARMED FORCES		LOCATION OF RESIDENCE				
		NUMBER	PER CENT	UNKNOWN	OUT OF STATE	PER CENT OUT	IN STATE	PER CENT IN
Northeast	1285	240	18.68	162	384	29.88	739	57.51
Northwest	679	79	11.63	89	120	17.67	470	69.22
Southwest	1188	184	15.49	69	288	24.24	331	69.95
Southeast	956	174	18.20	92	329	34.41	535	55.96
Central	523	84	16.06	67	105	20.08	351	67.11
TOTALS	4631	761	16.43	479	1226	26.65	2926	63.18

TABLE X

NUMBER OF GRADUATES IN NONAGRICULTURAL OCCUPATIONS, UNEMPLOYED AND DECEASED BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICTS	TOTAL	NONAG. OCCUPATIONS		UNEMPLOYED		DECEASED	
		NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT
Northeast	1285	454	35.33	69	5.37	4	.31
Northwest	679	193	28.42	21	3.09	5	.74
Southwest	1188	351	29.55	17	1.43	4	.34
Southeast	956	327	34.21	25	2.62	4	.42
Central	523	198	37.86	15	2.87	5	.96
TOTALS	4631	1523	32.89	147	3.17	22	.48

TABLE XI

NUMBER OF GRADUATES IN OFF-FARM AGRICULTURAL OCCUPATIONS BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	TOTAL	YES	PER CENT YES
Northeast	1285	112	8.72
Northwest	679	65	9.57
Southwest	1188	135	11.36
Southeast	956	128	13.39
Central	523	65	12.43
TOTALS	4631	505	10.90

COMPARISON BY DEGREE OF ATTAINMENT IN THE F. F. A.

TABLE XII

OCCUPATIONAL STATUS ON BASIS OF F. F. A. DEGREE

STATUS OF STUDENT	F. F. A. DEGREE		
	CHAPTER FARMER	JUNIOR MASTER FARMER	AMERICAN FARMER
Farming	641	192	8
Ag. Occupation	474	30	1
Ag. College	356	207	6
Other College	535	82	2
Other Special Education	188	20	1
Armed Forces	742	18	1
Nonag. Occupation	1462	60	1
Unemployed	140	7	-
State Residence	2550	368	8
Deceased	22	-	-

From Table XII it can be seen that the consideration of the relationship between the present occupational status and the F. F. A. degree received requires an approach somewhat different from the other three points of investigation. To begin with, the percentages presented here must be understood in light of the fact that there is only a total of 455 who achieved the "Junior Master Farmer" degree and only ten who became "American Farmers." The most obvious indications of this category of the study are to be found with regard to the ten men who attained the "American Farmer" degree. In virtually every case, those attaining the Chapter Farmer degree were at the low end of the scale of those in various areas of agriculture.

TABLE XIII

NUMBER OF GRADUATES IN FARMING BY F. F. A. DEGREE

DEGREE	TOTALS	YES	PER CENT YES
Chapter	4166	641	15.39
Junior Master	455	192	42.20
American	10	8	80.00
TOTALS	4631	841	18.16

It is significant that eight of the ten "American Farmers" are engaged in farming as shown in Table XIII. Apparently they continue to farm while they are attending college. This is brought out by the fact that a large per cent of them are in higher education (Table XV). There is a direct relationship between the degree received and number engaged in farming.

TABLE XIV

RESIDENCE OF GRADUATES COMPARED

DEGREE	RESIDENCE				
	UNKNOWN	OUT OF STATE	PER CENT OUT	IN STATE	PER CENT IN
Chapter	444	1172	28.13	2550	61.21
Junior Master	35	52	11.43	368	80.88
American	-	2	20.00	8	80.00
TOTALS	479	1226	26.47	2926	63.18

Table XIV indicates that the vast majority of those receiving the two higher degrees are still state residents. These persons are more likely to be established in the business of farming and thus stay in Oklahoma where this business is located.

From Table XV it can be seen that the "American Farmers" had the highest per cent attending each of the three categories of higher educational institutions with those with the "Junior Master" degree next. The percentage of "Chapter Farmer" obtaining further education after high school is much smaller.

TABLE XV

NUMBER OF GRADUATES CONTINUING IN HIGHER EDUCATION BY F. F. A. DEGREE

DEGREE	TOTAL	AG. COLLEGE		OTHER COLLEGE		SPECIAL EDUCATION		TOTAL PER CENT IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
		NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	
Chapter	4166	356	8.55	535	12.48	188	4.51	25.54
Junior Master	455	207	45.59	82	18.02	20	4.40	67.91
American	10	6	60.00	2	20.00	1	10.00	90.00
TOTALS	4631	569	12.29	619	13.37	209	4.53	30.19

TABLE XVI

NUMBER OF GRADUATES IN MILITARY SERVICE AND NONAGRICULTURAL OCCUPATIONS BY F. F. A. DEGREE

DEGREE	ARMED FORCES		NONAG. OCCUPATIONS	
	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT
Chapter	742	17.81	1462	35.09
Junior Master	18	3.96	60	13.19
American	1	10.00	1	10.00
TOTALS	761	16.42	1523	32.89

The data in Table XVI show that only one "American Farmer" is in a nonagricultural occupation as well as only one in the Armed Forces. Here again those with the lower degree are more likely to be in the military service or in a non-agricultural occupation.

TABLE XVII

NUMBER OF GRADUATES UNEMPLOYED AND DECEASED BY F. F. A. DEGREE

DEGREE	UNEMPLOYED		DECEASED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Chapter	140	3.36	22	.53
Junior Master	7	1.54	-	-
American	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	147	3.17	22	.01

The data in Table XVII indicate that none of the "American Farmers" are unemployed or deceased and that only 1.54 per cent of the "Junior Master Farmers" are unemployed and none deceased. This may be due

to the fact that more of these graduates are in the business of farming or in higher education. The amount of unemployment for all vocational agriculture graduates is below that of the state average.

TABLE XVIII

NUMBER OF GRADUATES IN OFF-FARM AGRICULTURAL OCCUPATIONS BY F. F. A. DEGREE

DEGREE	TOTALS	NO	YES	PER CENT YES
Chapter	4166	3692	474	11.38
Junior Master	455	425	30	6.59
American	10	9	1	10.00
TOTALS	4631	4126	505	10.90

A comparison on the basis of F. F. A. degree achieved shows 11.38 per cent of the 4166 "Chapter Farmers" in off-farm agricultural occupations as shown in Table XVIII. On the other hand is the "Junior Master Farmer" group with only 6.59 per cent in off-farm agiricultural occupations. This is explainable by the fact that there are fewer Chapter Farmers in college or on the farm and thus more available for such employment.

From the study of these students on the basis of the type of residence they had, it would appear that the extent to which they were associated with farming greatly determines their future relationship with it occupationally.

COMPARISON OF GRADUATES BY TYPE OF STUDENT

From the data in Table XIX can be seen that the boys who have

come from a background of on-the-farm farming have the greatest percentage of those entering farming as an occupation. At the other extreme was the town non-farming category which had only 1.29 per cent involved in farming.

TABLE XIX

NUMBER OF GRADUATES IN FARMING BY TYPE OF STUDENT

TYPE OF STUDENT	TOTALS	YES	PER CENT YES
Country Farmer	2717	748	27.53
Town Farmer	341	49	14.37
Country Nonfarmer	420	16	3.81
Town Nonfarmer	1004	13	1.29
Unreported	149	15	10.07
TOTALS	4631	841	18.16

TABLE XX

RESIDENCE OF GRADUATES BY TYPE OF STUDENTS

TYPE OF STUDENT	RESIDENCE				
	UNKNOWN	OUT OF STATE	PER CENT OUT	IN STATE	PER CENT IN
Country Farmer	234	612	22.52	1871	68.86
Town Farmer	38	92	26.98	211	61.88
Country Nonfarmer	42	131	31.19	247	58.81
Town Nonfarmer	101	339	33.76	564	56.18
Unreported	64	52	34.90	33	22.15
TOTALS	479	1226	26.40	2926	63.18

From Table XX it can be see that the on-the-farm farming group had the highest percentage of those located within the state while the town non-farming group was at the opposite end of the scale. The non-farm youth are much more mobil and move out of Oklahoma at a greater rate than the farm youth.

TABLE XXI

NUMBER OF GRADUATES IN MILITARY SERVICE AN NONAGRICULTURAL OCCUPATIONS BY TYPE OF STUDENT

TYPE OF STUDENT	TOTAL	ARMED FORCES		NON AG. OCCUPATIONS	
		NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT
Country Farmer	2717	373	13.73	815	30.00
Town Farmer	341	60	17.60	103	30.21
Country Nonfarmer	420	79	18.81	165	39.39
Town Nonfarmer	1004	212	21.12	407	40.54
Unreported	149	37	24.83	33	22.15
TOTALS	4631	761	16.43	1523	32.89

Table XXI indicates that less of the farm youth are in the Armed Forces which is the same type of situation as was found with residence. The non-farm youth also had more employed in non-agricultural occupations. Table XXII also shows that the same group had the highest number unemployed. This is significant in determining the type of training program necessary to rehabilitate this group.

TABLE XXII

NUMBER OF GRADUATES UNEMPLOYED AND DECEASED BY TYPE OF STUDENT

TYPE OF STUDENT	TOTAL	UNEMPLOYED		DECEASED	
		NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT
Country Farmer	2717	58	2.13	11	.40
Town Farmer	341	2	.59	3	.88
Country Nonfarmer	420	33	7.86	3	.71
Town Nonfarmer	1004	49	4.88	3	.30
Unreported	149	5	3.36	2	1.34
TOTALS	4631	147	3.71	22	.48

As can be seen from Table XXIII the farm students rate highest in those attending institutions of higher education. The group with the poorest overall showing was the country non-farm group. It had the lowest total percentage of those seeking education beyond high school as well as the highest level of those unemployed.

TABLE XXIII

NUMBER OF GRADUATES IN HIGHER EDUCATION BY TYPE OF STUDENT

TYPE OF STUDENT	TOTAL	AG. COLLEGE		OTHER COLLEGE		OTHER SPECIAL EDUCATION		TOTAL PER CENT IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
		NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	
Country Farmer	2717	413	15.20	358	13.18	113	4.16	32.54
Town Farmer	341	56	16.42	59	17.30	35	10.26	43.89
Country Nonfarmer	420	28	16.67	43	10.24	20	4.76	31.67
Town Nonfarmer	1004	50	4.98	139	13.84	38	3.78	22.60
Unreported	149	22	14.77	20	13.42	3	2.01	30.20
TOTALS	4631	569	12.29	619	13.37	209	4.51	30.17

TABLE XXIV

GRADUATES IN OFF-FARM AGRICULTURAL OCCUPATIONS BY TYPE OF STUDENT

TYPE OF STUDENT	TOTAL	NUMBER	PER CENT
Country Farmer	2717	321	11.82
Town Farmer	341	29	8.80
Country Nonfarmer	420	44	10.24
Town Nonfarmer	1004	105	10.46
Unreported	149	6	-
TOTALS	4631	505	10.90

As revealed by the data in Table XXIV there is very little difference in the percentage of those employed in off-farm agricultural occupations among the different type of students. However the "town farmer" group is slightly lower.

PLACEMENT IN OFF-FARM AGRICULTURAL OCCUPATIONS

Of the 4631 students involved, 505 or 10.9 per cent were listed as being engaged in some off-farm agricultural occupation on either a part time or full scale basis. Included with the questionnaire was a list (see Appendix) of sixty-three suggested occupations for identifying the student's type of employment in "agribusiness." Table XXV shows the distribution of the 505 graduates among the many areas of off-farm agricultural occupations.

TABLE XXV

THE DISTRIBUTION AND NUMBER OF GRADUATES IN THE MAJOR AREAS OF OFF-FARM AGRICULTURAL OCCUPATIONS

AREA	NUMBER	AREA	NUMBER
Animal Science	95	Farm Mechanics	154
Plant Science	148	Ag. Services	24
Soil Science	18	Ag. Laborers	66

Eight of the occupational choices were checked twenty or more times. These are the following: feed and hammar mill employeee, farm machinery mechanic, welder, general repairman, blacksmith, farm implement agency employee, farm hardware/equipment store employee, farm "co-op" employee, lumberman/sawmill employee, and farm laborer.

All but five of those listed as agricultural laborers went only as far as the "Chapter Farmer" degree in F. F. A. work with the majority of them being located in the Southwest district--possibly due to the migrant type labor employed in that area. This majority also had an on-the-farm background.

SUMMARY TABLE OF RESULTS

The data in Table XXVI are the complete results of this study of 4631 graduates with regard to their present occupational status, location of residence (in state or out of state) and those deceased. This table summarizes the findings for the total group of students reported in this study.

TABLE XXVI

OCCUPATIONAL STATUS OF GRADUATES OF HIGH SCHOOL VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE IN OKLAHOMA FROM 1959 - 1963

STATUS OF STUDENTS	NUMBER		PER CENT YES[3]
	NO	YES	
Farming	3790	841	18.16
Ag. Occupation	4126	505	10.90
Ag. College	4062	569	12.29
Other College	4012	619	13.37
Other Special Education	4422	209	4.51
Armed Forces	3870	761	16.43
Nonag. Occupation	3108	1523	32.89
Unemployed	4484	147	3.17
State Residence[4]	1226	2926	63.18
Deceased	4608	22	.48

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This study involves one-third or 127 of the 383 high schools in Oklahoma with vocational agriculture departments. Every graduate over the past five years, classes 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, and 1963, is included.

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[3]This does not add to 100 per cent because many students are in more than one category.

[4]Those "Out of State" are represented in the "No" column and those "In State" in the "Yes" column. Also all those listed as being in the Armed Forces whose residential location was not indicated, were placed in the "Out of State" group.

A questionnaire was mailed to each vocational agriculture instructor of those schools to determine the following information: what each graduate is now doing occupationally, when each individual was graduated, to what extent the student participated in F. F. A. work (the F. F. A. degree he attained), and the location of the graduate's home--on the farm proper or in town. Ninety-two per cent of the questionnaire were returned providing a study of a total of 4631 graduates.

It was found that 18.16 per cent of the graduates are farming with 10.90 per cent in off-farm agricultural occupations and 12.29 enrolled in agricultural colleges.

There is a point of possible concern with regard to those remaining or leaving the state following graduation. Inasmuch as a boy, listed as serving in the Armed Forces and whose residential location was not marked, was placed in the "out of state" group, the 36.82 per cent given as living out of state might be reduced somewhat in significance. Nevertheless, it is rather apparent that a minimum of 25 per cent are leaving the state for employment elsewhere during the first few years following high school graduation.

The Northwest district appears to be the district with the largest percentage of graduates farming and in continuing their education. This is very likely due to the larger farms and greater incomes for farmers in Western Oklahoma when compared to the Eastern half of the State.

The per cent of those in farming in 1963, 20.32 per cent, drops to 16.24 per cent for those graduating in 1959 which indicates that some of the graduates stay at home on the farm for a few years before entering the Armed Forces or seeking employment elsewhere. This is further illustrated by the fact that as the graduates became older a larger

number of them were found in off-farm agricultural occupations.

The higher the F. F. A. degree achieved, the greater chance there is of the graduate entering farming as well as a post high school educational institution. Also it seems to be as well that the higher the F. F. A. degree achieved, the more likely a graduate is to remain a state resident and be employed.

The type of residence background a graduate had is apparently quite determinative of his future agricultural relationship. Those with a background of "country farm" had by far the highest percentage not only of those entering farming but those in off-farm agricultural occupations as well. Opposite to this was the group with the "town nonfarming" background. The "country nonfarm" category was the weakest group agriculturally.

This study indicates that with 29 per cent of the graduates of vocational agriculture either farming or employed in off-farm agricultural occupations and 12 per cent enrolled in colleges of agriculture, with the total being 41 per cent, that our present type of program is serving the needs of this group. It also indicates that we are not meeting the needs of a larger group of the students. Our present day programs in vocational education for the rural youth need to be strengthened in order that they may be better trained. More studies need to be undertaken in the areas of off-farm agricultural occupations to determine the needs for persons employed in these occupations.

Different types of programs of vocational agriculture are needed in the various areas of the state to meet the specific needs of the individuals concerned. Many of these are due to economical and geographical differences in the areas.

There is also an indication of a special need for the rural student without the farm background. Our present day programs have failed to train him in occupations which are available.

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APPENDIX

LIST OF OFF-FARM AGRICULTURAL OCCUPATIONS

A. Farm Service Occupations
1. Artificial Inseminator
2. Auctioneer
3. Butcherer
4. Crop duster, sprayer
5. Feed and hammer mill employee
6. Field supervisor (A. S. C.)
7. County agent

B. Farm Machinery Sales & Service Occupations
8. Farm machinery mechanic
9. Welder, general repairman, blacksmith
10. Farm implement agency employee

C. Farm Supplies & Equipment Occupations
11. Farm Hardware/equipment store employee
12. Farm "co-op" employee

D. Livestock Industry Occupations
13. Apiary inspector
14. Dairy plant employee
15. Egg grader, inspector
16. Levestock auction employee
17. Disease control worker
18. Milk sanitarian/inspector
19. Poultry and egg broker
20. Packing plant employee
21. Poultry processing plant employee
22. Stockyard employee
23. Veterinarian

E. Crops, Forestry & Soil Occupations
24. Field crop, fruit, vegetable inspector
25. Fruit and vegetable produce broker
26. Grain elevator employee
27. Irrigation management employee
28. Lumberman/sawmill employee
29. Soil conservationist/specialist
30. City/state/national forest employee
31. Fertilizer expert/salesman

F. Ornamental Horticulture, Wildlife & Recreation Occupations
   32. Florist
   33. Game management employee
   34. Garden center employee
   35. Golf center employee
   36. Greenhouse employee
   37. Grounds maintenance employee
   38. Landscape gardener
   39. Nursery employee
   40. Tree pruner, surgeon

G. Professional Agricultural Occupations
   41. Agricultural chemist
   42. Agricultural economist
   43. Agricultural teacher/educator
   44. Agricultural engineer
   45. Agricultural journalist and communications
   46. Agronomist
   47. Animal scientist
   48. Bacteriologist
   49. Botanist
   50. Entomologist
   51. Plant pathologist
   52. Rural sociologist
   53. Zoologist
   54. Insecticide/ pesticide expert/salesman
   55. Agricultural insurance agent
   56. Agricultural banker
   57. Farm, ranch worker/laborer

H. Occupations Suggested By The Questionees
   58. Rural Electric Co-op
   59. Cotton gin employee
   60. Veterinarian helper
   61. Agricultural truck operator
   62. Miscellaneous
   63. Custom Combine fleet operator